


supported by the claims as originally filed. The amendment to the specification properly claims priority for the instant application as a continuation of the parent application. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

The amendments to claim 1 and 11 are supported by the specification at page 1, lines 5-7 and 36-40, which describe the formation of a composition comprising a polymer and cells which can form a hydrogel. Descriptions of appropriate polymers are found throughout the specification. The architecture of the cross-linked hydrogel is described at page 4, lines 1-5. The amendments to claims 2 and 3 more clearly specify when gel hardening occurs and are supported by the claims as originally filed. Claims 5 and 6 now depend from claims 2 and 3. The amendments to claims 7 and 17 more clearly describes the ions which cross-link the cell-polymeric composition. The amendments to claims 8 and 18 more clearly define the cells forming the Markush group. The dependency of claim 9 has been changed to more clearly specify when the cell-polymeric composition is molded; the amendments to this claim are supported by the claims as originally filed.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance.

Please charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,


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